

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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P R 200541Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8634

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 5857

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, MARR, RP, US

SUBJ: VISIT OF CODEL WOLFF

1. SUMMARY. CODEL WOLFF MADE A PRODUCTIVE AND WELL RECEIVED VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES APRIL 17-19. MARCOS, MUCH PRE-OCCUPIED WITH MINDANAO, CONVEYED TO THE CODEL UNUSUALLY WARM EXPRESSIONS OF GOODWILL FOR THE U.S. WHILE VOICING SOME CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE JAPANESE ROLE IN ASIA. THE VISIT PROVIDED USEFUL EXCHANGES ON THE US-RP RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDED THE BASES, AND GAVE THE CODEL AN OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER SENSITIZE THE GOP ABOUT HEIGHTENED U.S. CONCERNS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. END SUMMARY.

2. CODEL WOLF (CHAIRMAN WOLFF, REP. MEYNER AND REP. BIAGGI) ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, MADE TWO-DAY VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES, APRIL 17-19. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS FOUR AND A HALF HOUR LUNCHEON IN CODEL'S HONOR AT MALACANANG APRIL 18 HOSTED BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS AND WITH CABINET OFFICIALS ROMULO, ENRILE, CONFIDENTIAL

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VIRATA, ABAD SANTOS, MENDOZA AND SICAT IN ATTENDANCE.

3. AT CONCLUSION OF LUNCHEON MARCOS MADE RAMBLING, HOUR-LONG STATEMENT WHICH COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ISSUES.

(A) MAJOR PORTION OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WAS DEVOTED

TO PROBLEMS OF INTERNAL SECURITY. HE TRACED HISTORY OF COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN PHILIPPINES, NOTING THAT COMMUNISM, LIKE MALARIA, WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO ERADICATE. HE SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THE MUSLIM REBELLION IN THE SOUTH, WHICH HAS PRODUCED IN ITS COURSE 18,000-20,000 CIVILIAN DEATHS, AND 2,000-3,000 GOVERNMENT MILITARY KIA. HE PROVIDED HIS ESTIMATE THAT QADHAFI HAD SPENT \$100 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF THE REBELS. HE EVINCED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ABOUT PEACE IN MINDANAO BUT CONCEDED THAT THE FIGHTING COULD RESUME. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS HAD DELAYED THE TIMETABLE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE BODY BUT THAT HE STILL INTENDED TO HAVE SUCH AN INSTITUTION. HE FORESAW AT SOME FUTURE DATE THE ENDING OF MARTIAL LAW AND THE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

(B) MARCOS HAD KIND WORDS FOR THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. IS THE ONLY FOREIGN COUNTRY THE GOP TRUSTS AND THAT THE PHILIPPINES WILL REMAIN AMERICA'S STRONGEST ALLY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. HE ASSURED HIS GUESTS THAT PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WILL ENDURE BECAUSE THERE IS STILL A BIG AND DEEP RESERVOIR OF GOODWILL TOWARD AMERICA AMONG FILIPINOS. MARCOS REITERATED THAT THE GOP'S POLICY IS TO SETTLE INTERNAL SUBVERSION THROUGH THE USE OF ITS OWN RESOURCES, BUT STRESSED HE WOULD ASK THE U.S. TO LIVE UP TO THE TERMS OF THE MILITARY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT. THE PRESIDENT ALSO RIDICULED WESTERN PRESS REPORTS THAT THE GOP HAD BLACKMAILED THE U.S. SO THAT IT WOULD PAY RENT FOR THE BASES.

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(C) BY CONTRAST, MARCOS SPOKE SHARPLY ABOUT JAPAN. HE SAID THE FILIPINOS DON'T TRUST THE JAPANESE AND WANTED THE U.S. TO KNOW THAT THE JAPANESE CANNOT BE THE AMERICAN SPOKESMAN IN ASIA. NOR CAN THEY BE THE PHILIPPINES' SPOKESMAN, HE SAID; THEY DON'T REFLECT PHILIPPINE VALUES.

(D) ON HUMAN RIGHTS, MARCOS STRESSED THAT THE GOP AND THE FILIPINO PEOPLE "ARE NOT MERELY PAYING LIP SERVICE TO HUMAN RIGHTS--", BUT WE ARE READY TO DEFEND IT WITH OUR LIVES". HE ADDED THAT THE GOP HAS FORMALLY RATIFIED THE UN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND "WE SHALL ADHERE TO IT". HE EXPLAINED THAT MARTIAL LAW WAS DECLARED BECAUSE ANARCHY AND VIOLENCE WERE THREATENING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE COUNTRY. IN OTHER COMMENTS HOWEVER PRESIDENT APPEARED TO TAKE A HARD LINE ON COMMUNIST DISSIDENTS WHO SOUGHT TO HIDE BEHIND HUMAN RIGHTS SHIELD.

(E) THERE WAS LITTLE MENTION OF ECONOMIC OR DEVELOPMENT

ISSUES.

4. IN RESPONSE CHAIRMAN WOLF EXPLAINED THAT HIS MISSION WAS NOT TO NEGOTIATE BUT TO TALK FRANKLY WITH THE FILIPINOS. HE CHARACTERIZED US-PHILIPPINE TIES AS A "FAMILY RELATIONSHIP", ASSURED MARCOS OF AMERICA'S ABIDING INTEREST IN THE PHILIPPINES AND VENTURED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE FRIENDS "FOR AN AWFULLY LONG TIME". THE CHAIRMAN STRESSED THAT THE U.S. BASES HERE SHOULD SERVE THE JOINT INTEREST OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE U.S. WHEN THEY CEASE TO SO FUNCTION, THEY SHOULD NO LONGER REMAIN. THE CHAIRMAN ALSO EXPLAINED THE U.S. CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WHILE NOTING THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT SIT IN JUDGMENT OF OTHER PEOPLE NOR ARE THEY SINGLING OUT THE PHILIPPINES AS A VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

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5. THE THREE LEADING MANILA DAILIES OF APRIL 19 FRONT-PAGED THE MARCOS-WOLFF DISCUSSION IN AN UPBEAT FASHION. THE STORIES INCLUDED THE MARCOS COMMENTS ON THE US-RP FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE, THE MILITARY BASES AND HUMAN RIGHTS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THERE WAS NO PUBLIC MENTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S ANTI-JAPANESE REMARKS.

6. AT APRIL 19 PRESS CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN WOLFF MADE FOLLOWING POINTS (SEE SEPTTEL FOR FULL TEXT OF CONFERENCE):

(A) WOLFF NOTED FRANK AND LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH

MARCOS AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE

(B) WOLFF STRESSED TO MARCOS THE NEED FOR MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS CONCERNING THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BASES. IF MUTALITY IS LACKING, THEN THE BASES DON'T BELONG HERE.

(C) MARCOS STATED CLEARLY TO WOLFF THAT HE WANTED THE BASES TO REMAIN, THAT THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECURITY OF BOTH COUNTRIES.
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(D) MARCOS ASSURED WOLFF THERE ARE MOVES AFOOT TO CREATE A NATIONAL LEGISLATURE HERE; WOLFF SEES THIS AS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN.

(E) WOLFF HAS RAISED THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH EVERY HEAD OF STATE HE HAS VISITED ON THIS TRIP. THE CODEL HAS DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH A RANGE OF GOVERNMENT AND PROVATE SOURCES IN EACH COUNTRY VISITED AND HAS RECEIVED "A VARIETY OF ANSWERS".

(F) WOLFF DOES NOT WANT TO SEE QADHAFI, WHO HAS BEEN AN INSTRUMENT OF THE RUSSIANS, GET A TOEHOLD IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. HE DESCRIBED QADHAFI AS "VERY UNSTABLE".

7. REP BIAGGI AND THREE STAFF MEMBERS VISITED SUBIC AND CLARK APRIL 19 FOR BRIEFINGS AND TOUR OF EACH FACILITY. REP BIAGGI REFERRED TO QUESTIONS POSED IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE ABOUT THE VALUE OF CLARK. RADM KILCLINE AND MGEN POSTON CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE CURRENT MISSIONS OF CLARK, INDICATING THAT SOME COULD BE TRANSFERRED ELSEWHERE BUT AT AT CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC COST AND DIMINISHED OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS. MGEN POSTON ESPECIALLY STRESSED CLARK'S MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF KOREA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. POSTON CITED THE INADEQUACIES OF CUBI POINT NAVAL AIR STATION AS AN ALTERNATE SITE AND EMPHASIZED THE DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING LANDING RIGHTS ELSEWHERE IN THE AREA. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. MILITARY IMAGE CAN BE REDUCED IN THE PHILIPPINES BUT THIS MUST BE DONE CAREFULLY OVER A PERIOD TIME. REP BIAGGI SAID THAT HE HOPES THAT THE TALK OF MOVING OUT OF CLARK WAS MERELY A NEGOTIATING POSTURE. HE STRESSED THAT HE AND THE STAFF MEMBERS WITH HIM WERE HAPPY THAT CLARK WAS HERE.

8. CODEL STAFF MEMBER SALZBERG HAD MEETINGS WITH A SUB-
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STANTIAL NUMBER OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND GOP OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, INCLUDING VISITS WITH DETAINEES AQUINO AND DE LA TORRE WHICH WERE PERSONALLY AUTHORIZED BY MARCOS (FULL REPORT BY SEPTTEL). OTHER CODEL ACTIVITIES INCLUDED VISIT TO VOA INSTALLATION AT TINANG BY STAFF MEMBER HYNDMAN (WHO FOUND VISIT FRUITFUL AND WILL BE SEEKING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM USIA WASHINGTON, CHAIRMAN'S BREAKFAST MEETING WITH AMCHAM (SEPTTEL), COUNTRY TEAM AND JUSMAG BRIEFINGS AND WELL ATTENDED AMBASSADORIAL RECEPTION IN CODEL'S HONOR.

9. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES VISIT WAS A PRODUCTIVE ONE FOR THE CODEL WHICH WAS RECEIVED WITH WARMTH BY THE MARCOSES. THE PRESIDENT, EVIDENTLY MUCH PREOCCUPIED WITH MINDANAO, WAS NOT IN HIS BEST FORM. NEVERTHELESS, THE LENGTHY SESSION WITH MARCOS PROVIDED SOME USEFUL INSIGHTS INTO THE GOP'S PERCEPTION OF THE US-RP RELATIONSHIP, THE BASES ISSUE AND THE JAPANESE ROLE IN THE AREA. SIMILARLY THE FORUM GAVE THE CODEL AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPART TO MARCOS ITS VIEWS ON OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO FURTHER SENSITIZE THE GOP LEADERSHIP ABOUT THE HEIGHTENED U.S. CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS.

10. IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH FILIPINOS AND IN PUBLIC COMMENTS BOTH CHAIRMAN WOLFF AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE STRESSED THAT THEIR TRAVELING TOGETHER SYMBOLIZED ENHANCED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USG LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES, AND THE FILIPINOS APPRECIATED THIS FACT. THE WOLFF AND HOLBROOKE PROGRAMS COMPLEMENTED EACH OTHER WELL. THE HOLBROOKE PROGRAM IS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

11. THE FOREGOING WAS DRAFTED SUBSEQUENT TO CODEL'S DEPARTURE AND HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED BY CODEL.
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